

**METHOD AND APPARATUS IN A WIRELESS COMMUNICATION
SYSTEM FOR EXPEDITING A REQUEST FOR UPLINK RESOURCES**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5

A base station (400) and corresponding method (300) sends (302) a first request for an acknowledgment message from a mobile unit (502), the acknowledgment message including an uplink channel request when needed by the mobile unit. The base station determines (304) an expected time for receiving the 10 acknowledgment message. In response to not receiving the acknowledgment message by the expected time, the base station conditionally sends (308) a speculative packet access reject message to the mobile unit, followed by a second request for the acknowledgment message.